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*trapā*, *Cyanus Cyanus*, *Mariana Mariana*, *Rhapontica Rhapontica*, and others of a similar character. But it must be a matter of surprise that the recent literature of botany and zoölogy is so slightly regarded (or so wholly inaccessible?) at Philadelphia; it seems, however, as if even there they must have a copy of the Century Dictionary, and if they consulted it might find the statement that the common European lynx is *Lynx Lynx*!

There has been much discussion among both zoölogists and botanists about the desirability of using duplicate binomials, and there are still many who object to scientific names which are as meaningless as "cat cat" or "dog dog," but the use of such appears to be extending in spite of objections, and they are no more devoid of meaning than many other binomials in common use.

While upon this subject, it may not be amiss to call the attention of botanical students to the fact that many duplicate binomials were proposed by A. B. Lyons in 1900, in his little book entitled "Plant names, scientific and popular"; a work which might readily be overlooked as a source of new combinations.

JOHN HENDLEY BARNHART.

#### NEWS ITEMS

John L. Sheldon, Ph.D. (University of Nebraska, 1903), has been appointed professor of bacteriology in the West Virginia University at Morgantown.

Dr. and Mrs. N. L. Britton returned to New York on September 18 from Cuba, where they had spent three weeks in botanical exploration.

Mr. C. B. Robinson, B.A. (Dalhousie, 1891), of Pictou, Nova Scotia, has been appointed a laboratory assistant at the New York Botanical Garden.

Mr. Edmund P. Sheldon, now of Portland, Oregon, is superintendent of the Oregon State forestry exhibit at the World's Fair, St. Louis, 1904.

Professor L. M. Underwood returned from Europe on September 7. While abroad he visited herbaria at Kew, Berlin, Prague, Basel, Geneva, Paris, etc.

Mr. C. F. Baker, who received the degree of master of arts from Stanford University last spring, has been appointed assistant professor of biology in Pomona College, Claremont, California.

Mr. Robert S. Williams, of the New York Botanical Garden, started on August 30 for Manila. He plans to devote a year or more to making collections for the Garden in the Philippine Islands.

Mr. Charles Louis Pollard, for several years connected with the botanical department of the United States National Museum, has resigned to accept a position on the scientific staff of Webster's Dictionary.

After September 15, the permanent address of Mr. A. A. Heller, the well-known botanical collector, who has been working in California for the past year, will be Los Gatos, Santa Clara County, California.

Professor Francis E. Lloyd, of Teachers College, Columbia University, and Mrs. Lloyd, returned on September 7 from a ten weeks' visit to the island of Dominica of the British West Indies. They spent a short time also on the islands of Martinique and St. Lucia.

Messrs. George V. Nash and Harry Baker, of the New York Botanical Garden, returned on September 14, from a seven weeks' visit to Haïti. Collections of living plants and herbarium specimens were made by them in the mountainous region of the northwestern part of the island, mostly to the westward of Cape Haïtien.

Dr. W. A. Cannon, recently fellow in botany in Columbia University and assistant in the laboratories of the New York Botanical Garden, left New York on August 21 to assume his new duties as director of the Desert Botanical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution at Tucson, Arizona. The building which has been erected for this laboratory is now practically completed.